

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4273
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS FROM AMBASSADOR CATTO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG APER UN
SUBJ: CHANGES IN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION,
U.N. OFFICE GENEVA

REF: (A) GENEVA 7833; (B) STATE 245608

1. WITHIN THE PAST WEEK, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO SEPARATE APPROACHES TO MISSION WARNING THAT THE U.S. IS ABOUT TO LOSE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF PRESS SECTION IN U.N. GENEVA'S OPI, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE DRIVING HARD TO WIN THAT POSITION, AND RECOMMENDING URGENTLY THAT WE TAKE STRONG POSITIVE ACTION TO RETAIN IT.

2. THE WARNINGS CAME FROM ERWIN BAUMGARTEN (NETHERLANDS), FORMER CHIEF OF OPI WHO HAS BEEN SIDELINED TO A LESS DEMANDING POSITION BY A SEVERE HEART ATTACK, IN A CALL ON THE DCM; AND FROM GERALD GREGOIRE (FRANCE), DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPI, IN A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH THE PAO. PLEASE PROTECT BOTH SOURCES.

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3. THEY CONFIRM PREVIOUS REPORTS FROM USUN THAT MICHAEL CLARK, U.S. NATIONAL AND PRESENT CHIEF OF THE PRESS SECTION, IS ABOUT TO BE APPOINTED CHIEF OF OPI IN TOKYO. THEY ADD THAT IN RECENT WEEKS THE SOVIETS, WHO ALREADY HAVE TWO POSITIONS IN GENEVA OPI, HAVE CARRIED ON AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR NATIONALS SUCCEED

CLARK. AMONG OTHERS, THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE APPROACHED CHARLES BOURBONNIERE, CHIEF OF OPI WHO HAS BEEN IN NEW YORK FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, ON THIS SUBJECT. BOURBONNIERE ALSO IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION EARLY NEXT MONTH.

4. OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE CLARK APPOINTMENT MAY BE ANNOUNCED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS A GUIDE, THEY THINK THIS WILL BE COUPLED WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLARK'S SUCCESSOR. AND THEY WARN THAT UNLESS THE U.S. MAKES ITS POSITION KNOWN FORCEFULLY AND VERY QUICKLY AT THE TOP LEVELS OF THE U.N. IN NEW YORK WE SHALL BE FACED WITH AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT.

5. FINALLY, THEY INDICATE THAT IF THERE IS NO VIABLE U.S. CANDIDATE, THEY WOULD FAVOR THE APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF THE PRESS SECTION OF TON CURNOW (NEW ZEALAND), A U.N. INFORMATION SPECIALIST NOW ON DETAIL WITH THE ECE HERE. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY COORDINATION, THIS LINE PARALLELS BOURBONNIERE'S POSITION ON CURNOW REPORTED IN REFTEL (A).

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE SUGGEST THAT USUN SPEAK TO BOURBONNIERE AND CLARK, BOTH OF WHOM WILL BE IN NEW YORK UNTIL DECEMBER 20, TO CONFIRM THE STATE OF PLAY DESCRIBED. ESPECIALLY IN TALKING TO BOURBONNIERE IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF OUR INFORMANTS, NEITHER ONE OF WHOM IS ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM.

7. NEXT, WE THINK IT OUGHT TO BE MADE QUITE CLEAR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AKATANI THAT U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE THREE SOVIETS IN GENEVA'S OPI, AND LEAST OF ALL ONE OF THEM AS CHIEF OF THE PRESS SECTION, FOR WHICH TOTAL FLUENCY IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH IS A PREREQUISITE.

8. AS MISSION HAS INDICATED IN THE PAST, WE HAVE NO CANDIDATE FOR CLARK'S P-5 POSITION. HOWEVER, WE URGE STRONGLY THAT THE USG PRESS THE CANDIDACIES OF THE AMERICAN IDENTIFIED IN REFTEL (B); I.E., GAULKIN.

9. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, BOURBONNIERE IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH US HAS STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF FINDING A SUCCESSOR TO CLARK WITHIN THE U. N. SYSTEM. WHILE AGREEING, GREGOIRE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE SUBORDINATE AS PREVENTS THE U.S.

FROM KEEPING A POSITION THAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS. THE MISSION EXPLAINED THIS,

THIS, OF COURSE, IS ALSO THE
DEPARTMENT'S
POSITION EXPRESSED IN REFTEL (B). THUS,
IF THE TWO U.S. CANDIDATES WITHIN THE SYSTEM ARE UNAVAILABLE
OR UNSUITABLE, WE URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OFFER QUALIFIED
U.S. CANDIDATES FROM THE OUTSIDE. BUT WE REPEAT THAT
SPEED IS ESSENTIAL, SO MUCH SO THAT EVEN IF WE HAVE NO
CANDIDATE TO OFFER IMMEDIATELY WE SHOULD AT LEAST GIVE
NOTICE OF OUR INTENTION TO RETAIN THE POSITION.

10. MISSION ALSO SUGGESTS THAT, IN REVIEWING THE OPI
SITUATION WITH BOURBONNIERE, USUN REITERATE OUR CONTINUING
INTEREST IN PLACING GREGORY KRUGLAK AND MARITY BRADLEY
REFTEL (A), ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOURBONNIERE MAY
ONLY WANT TO TAKE ONE OF THEM, IN WHICH CASE WE HAVE NO
PREFERENCE.CATTO

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